



2023 MARCH NEWSLETTER

Think Spring!

Issue 1
<https://www.womensmetgolf.org>

President's Message

Fore!

A fabulous season of golf is just in front of us! If you have not yet returned your membership application for 2023, it's time to do so. Remember returning members who register after April 1st, will incur a \$25 late fee penalty.

Some of you will likely attend the Rules seminar being put on by the Michigan Women's Golf Association but all of us would do well to spend a little time reviewing common situations ahead of the season—how to take relief, your options in a penalty area, WMGA local rules and so forth. It's easy for each of us to rely on others in our group but remember it is *your responsibility to know the rules*. The USGA puts out a great app that allows you to easily search a rule -so if you see your ball go into the water and are in doubt-you can have the rules handy on your phone -just in case you cannot remember all your options. Also, the USGA has great online educational tools- easy to understand videos, written explanations and quizzes.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/education.html>.

For pace of play purposes please remember our local rule about scoring which provides:

“You may use our 10-stroke option. Once a golfer's stroke total reaches 10, she may pick up without holing out, and she will indicate this with a 10X or 10M on her scorecard. The golfer will not be eligible for gross or net prizes for the day but, if entered, remains in the cash games.”

For many of our golfers this issue will never arise but for some (like myself 😞) it does and if you're like me, you just want the problem hole to be done and move on and start fresh off the next tee.

Our very own Carolyn Byl is working on creating an electronic excel based computer scoring system for our use—more on that elsewhere in this Newsletter. So, after our rounds, you will see Carolyn with her computer and other volunteers entering scores; starting with the Championship Flight. We're giving it a look this year to see if we think it might speed things up and make posting rounds easier. This was entirely on her own initiative and I just appreciate her commitment to this club.

See you May 3!

Belinda



New to your 2023 Board

Julie Williams



Originally from the UK, I have always had the bug to travel and have spent the past 10-12 years working for a travel company based in Northville. I am a tour manager for them, so if I start herding you all to your cars after golf, I apologize, as I'm used to a schedule. I spent 5 of those years as Julie McCoy, the cruise director, it was fun, but exhausting. I love that part of my life; it keeps me busy in the spring and fall when the weather isn't cooperating. Although I didn't grow up playing golf, I took it up way too late in life and soon became obsessed. I spent some years running a junior league at Indian Springs Metropark and rating some courses when I had the time. I love my "Hump Day Wednesday" and appreciate how hard the board works so that we can just show up and play. With that in mind I wanted to express my gratitude by taking a turn on the board. I have the role as V.P. I will also be helping Sue Madej as the handicap chair; it will take a little while to learn that role so please be patient!

Kathlene Brown

I am a recent Michigander. We had planned to move here after retiring, to be near our grandkids, and Covid accelerated that plan. Previously we had become deeply involved in Pleasantville NY, where we raised our family. My husband had run AYSO soccer and trained referees for 25 years. I had been on the school board for 9 years, and an elder at our church. About 12 years ago I took up golf. I played in several leagues, but did not really see tournament play until moving here. As your Competitions chair, I'll enjoy tracking all the numbers and hope some of mine will be noteworthy. To paraphrase Simba, "I just cannot wait to be [playing golf again]"



2023 Board of Directors

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FYI.....

Did you catch the article by Tom Lang in the March 2023 issue of the MI Golf Journal featuring the top 20 golf courses nationally? Using the NBC/Golf Channel's GolfPass' Ratings system, which incorporates feedback from the "average" golfer (us), four courses are from Michigan – that's 20% of the nation!

Here are GolfPass' top 20 National courses in Michigan:

No. 16, Old Channel Trail,
Montague

No. 14, St. Ives Golf Club,
Stanwood

No. 9, Harbor Shores,
Benton Harbor

No. 8, Stonegate Golf Club,
near Muskegon

So, if you haven't played, you may wish to add to your bucket list.

"Hey, Siri, Tell Me My Gross, Net and Skins"

by Carolyn Byl

Do you remember what the world was like before Siri? Now, all you have to say is "Hey, Siri" and she will call, text, FaceTime, send emails, check voicemail . . .

Thinking about this advancement in technology, you may wonder, why is WMGA not using technology for its scoring? We are manually writing our scores, repeating for skins, adding, tallying, typing, and posting. To me, this seems like a lot of redundancy that technology can eliminate.

I have developed a program that will calculate gross, net, and skins, and then provide a summary sheet for the WMGA website. That was the first phase. For the second phase, we need a few volunteers to help pilot the program on a small scale by running live trials of the automated scoring alongside the manual scoring. The volunteer's role will be to understand the program, provide critique, and implement a step-by-step process, which streamlines and makes scoring faster, more efficient and assures accuracy.

If you have additional questions or would like to contribute and be a part of this groundbreaking team, please contact me, Carolyn Byl, at byl.carolyn@yahoo.com



"Alexa, tell Siri I'm not speaking to her."

Girls Just Want to Have Fun!

Sue "Mad Dog" Madej



Carolyn Johnson, Kathleen Taylor & Rose Crew



"Princess" Vicki VanBecelaere

A grand time was had by all at the "Hawaii" in Michigan luncheon held at the Rochester Mills Beer Co. on February 1 to escape the winter blahs. All participated in the gaiety by donning festive Hawaiian attire. – Unfortunately, Vicki left most of her grass skirt on the floor of the restaurant. Must have been shedding season for grass skirts. I know she tipped the staff proportionately for their extra service. A big "thank-you" to Sue Madej for arranging the event and supplying the leis.

Member News / Highlights

Accolades to Liz Cantu for receiving her "Expert Certification in the USGA Rules of Golf". Not an easy achievement and the WMGA is fortunate to claim Liz as a Member as well as a Board Member! Nice job, Liz!

The **Palm Springs Amateur** is an annual 54-hole amateur stroke play tournament held one week before the PGA Tour American Express at PGA West. For 2023, the event was held January 8-11. WMGA members in attendance were Sue Madej, Vicki VanBecelaere, Terry MacPherson, Arezell Brown, Roz LeFlore, Yvette Johnson and alumna member Lorraine Jones. Vicki finished 1st, Arezell finished 2nd and Sue tied for 3rd. Making the WMGA proud!

<https://fungolfvacations.com>

The **Las Vegas World Amateur** is an annual, week-long, net golf competition for golfers of all skill levels. For 2023, the event was held February 27 - March 1. In attendance were MWGA members Sue Madej, Terry MacPherson along with WMGA alumna, Cynthia Pinkard, who placed third in the ladies division. <https://www.vegasworldam.com>

Both of the afore mentioned events are open and, if interested, check out information on their respective websites.

Don't forget that the WMGA will not be hosting a Rules Seminar this year and we strongly encourage you to attend:

2023 MWGA RULES SEMINAR

Date: Saturday, **March 25**
Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Location: Tin Cup Grill at Whispering Willows GC
20500 Newburgh Road
Livonia, MI 48152

The MWGA RULES SEMINAR will be conducted by USGA Certified Expert Rules Official, Liz Cantu, a WMGA and MWGA member. Liz will explain many of the basic rules as well as discuss the key rule changes for 2023.- Q & A will be available. Basic knowledge of the Rules of Golf is essential for WMGA membership, along with any competitive golf experience, and this seminar is designed to enhance said knowledge.

Cost: \$23 Includes: Breakfast and a 1.5-hour Rules Seminar

Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 22 and is limited to the first 40 participants who register. You will need to register and pay on the MWGA website; copy and paste in your browser and follow the prompts:

<https://golfgenius.com/gqid/rules-mwga23>

For further information, contact Ellen Jean Pravato, Events Chair at ellenjean@hotmail.com

Some Interesting Data

by Barbara Porter

Did you know the WMGA is the second oldest women's golf organization in Michigan? (AAWGA is the oldest). And, in 2025, our club will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary? Quite impressive for any organization to reach ninety years. I have been spending time going through WMGA archives, which, sadly, have been neglected for the last ten years or so. Trying to recreate records has been a bit challenging. I need to give a special thank you to Kathleen Taylor who consolidated years of records unto a flash drive. – Much easier than transporting plastic bins year after year. Following are a few comparisons for you to ponder.

The LPGA was **founded in 1950** at Rolling Hills Country Club in Wichita, Kansas. Its 13 founders were: Alice Bauer, Patty Berg, Bettye Danoff, Helen Dettweiler, Marlene Hagge, Helen Hicks, Opal Hill, Betty Jameson, Sally Sessions, Marilyn Smith, Shirley Spork, Louise Suggs, and Babe Zaharias. The WMGA in was **founded 1935** at Sylvan Glen in Troy, MI. The first Board members were: Mrs. H.C. Harr, Ms. Helen Yates, Mrs. A.R. Krause, Mrs. C.E. Stricker, Mrs. Sam Frame, Mrs. Chas. Hamer, Mrs. Nobles and Mrs. Downey.

The first LPGA tournament was the **1950 Tampa Women's Open**, held at Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club in Tampa, Florida. Ironically, the winner was **amateur Polly Riley**, who beat the stellar field of professional founders. The first WMGA tournament was **May 6, 1936** at Sylvan Glen with 61 women players. No record of a winner(s), but she, also, was an amateur.

The oldest LPGA golfer to make a cut is one of the tour's all-time greats. That golfer is **JoAnne Carner**, nicknamed "Big Mama." Well, although not a direct comparison, in 2022, **Carol Elias** celebrated her 39th year playing with the WMGA. And, although Carol certainly isn't any "Big Mama" in stature, she's still an awesome competitor.

Annika Sorenstam is often regarded as the greatest female golfer of all-time. During her 15-year, Hall-of-Fame career, she rewrote the LPGA and Ladies European Tour record books, won countless awards, and changed the way women's golf was played, viewed and covered. Again, don't have a close likeness, however, based on WMGA records, I would say **Janina Jacobs** would qualify as the WMGA greatest amateur.

So, all of you stick around to help us celebrate our 90th Anniversary, share old memories, make new memories, and, perhaps, set new records.

Deadline for Membership Entry is April 1, 2023. A late fee of \$25 will be assessed if received after deadline. Visit our website at <https://womensmetgolf.org> to download the 2023 application and follow directions for entry. Questions? Contact our Membership Chair, Shirley McClain, at shelly@comcast.net or any Board Member.